

NDRC Frequently Asked Questions (February 3, 2015)

SUBJECT: Target Areas and Thresholds

Q: What is the basic threshold to participate in Phase 1?

A: An eligible county must identify a target area that demonstrates at least one most impacted and one distressed characteristic within the specified target area with unmet recovery needs; and those unmet recovery needs must tie-back to the eligible disaster.

Q: As far as being in the impacted area - what if a county or city was impacted by way of providing sheltering or other support for a neighboring county?

A: First, that county would have to have a disaster declaration. Second, they would have to demonstrate the tie back to the unmet need in the neighboring county. For example, if the neighbor still didn't have the correct protection in place, would you still need to provide assistance if they were impacted again?

Q: Do individual municipalities within a county fill out the form, or does it need to be submitted as a whole?

A: Forms can be submitted by cities, counties, COGs, or private entities. Regardless of the submitter, they must be able to identify the necessary criteria for the specific target areas with unmet needs.

Q: If a sub-target area isn't identified in Phase 1, will we be able to add them as part of Phase I2?

A: Yes, as long as they meet all of the criteria.

Q: So drought isn't itself an eligible disaster but can be used as evidence of "prior environmental distress" when qualifying under an eligible disaster (wildfire, etc), is that right?

A: Correct. Environmental reports of sustained drought can contribute to the underlying degradation of the area, and a contributing risk factor to the fires. Please submit any information documenting the impact of drought as well.

Q: Is a FEMA Project Work Sheet (PW) or engineering report enough to show damage?

A: No, an engineering report or FEMA Project Work Sheet(s) showing estimated repair amounts must include (or be accompanied by) a sources and uses statement showing the funding shortfall and an explanation of why existing CDBG-DR resources, together with other funding sources, are inadequate to meet this repair need. HUD recognizes that such an assessment goes beyond the information typically presented in a civil engineer's damage report so it is cautioning applicants to not simply attach the most recent assessment, but to be sure that the data presented answers all parts of the question as fully, completely, and concisely, as possible.

Q: How old can our data sources be to demonstrate unmet need? Example: A county has an engineering report from 2012 detailing the fire damage.

A: HUD has set a standard that an engineering report or other detailed report documenting damage must be created OR certified as still accurate after March 14, 2014.

Q: Should we submit project ideas with our Target Area forms?

A: Phase 1 is about identifying unmet needs, a path and gathering ideas. Projects come as part of Phase 2.

SUBJECT: PROJECTS/PHASE 2

Q: Will this funding cover CDBG-eligible projects within the disaster declared county, but not within the identified sub-target area/mid-urn target?

A: Projects must benefit the population identified in the target area or protect vulnerabilities identified in the target area. Example(s): A levee can be built outside the target area, to protect that area. Housing needs can be met by building other affordable housing outside the target area, but still within the general area of the people who were impacted.

Q: Is interoperability communications an eligible project for Phase 2 development?

A: HUD said probably not. Too difficult to prove tie back, and there will be lots of equipment restrictions in Phase 2.

Q: What happens in Phase 2?

- *An Applicant invited to Phase 2 will submit a proposal for a project to implement based on the Phase 1 framing and idea.*
- *The project must be demonstrated to be feasible. This means the Applicant has the capacity to implement it, and the project is designed properly to achieve the proposed benefits.*
- *The best applications will extend resilience beyond actions and areas eligible for CDBG-NDR assistance by leveraging, plans, and strategic long-term commitments.*

Q: What are the Phase 2 deadlines?

- *If invited by HUD, the State of Texas will submit a Phase 2 application 120 days after the date of the invitation letter.*
- *HUD and other agencies and experts will rate and rank all applications.*
- *HUD anticipates taking up to 60 days after the Phase 2 submissions before announcing awards.*
- *HUD must obligate the funds (sign a grant agreement) by September 30, 2017.*
- *A grantee will have 24 months to expend the funds after obligation.*

Q: If Entity A submits only for flooding are they later limited to a project on flooding or can they also collaborate with Entity B on a wildfire if Entity B submits a form and mentions Entity A as a collaborator?

A: The project must tie back to their disaster declaration. However, sometimes the disasters can be related so the State can assist you during Phase 2 project discussions.

Q: If a disaster repair project is complete and only addressed repair to pre-disaster condition, but did not address a resilience-enhancing action such as elevation of damaged facility due to funding or other issues, can that resilience action (elevation for example) be considered a “funding shortfall” and thus an unmet recovery need?

A: Yes, if you completed repairs of a structure (or stabilized natural infrastructure such as a streambed) damaged by a Qualified Disaster to a basic functional, stable, or pre-disaster condition, but are able to demonstrate that resilient measures were not implemented and demonstrate the nature and cost of such resilient measures that could have been incorporated into the repairs in accordance with the Appendix G guidance for the category, HUD will consider the demonstrated cost of the resilient measures related to the damage to be unmet needs for purposes of meeting the Unmet Recovery Need threshold.

Q: Will duplication of benefit be a concern for projects that are awarded these funds?

A: As with regular CDBG funds, these funds will not be able to supplant other funding sources.

Q: Can the NDRC funds be used as a local match for federal cost-share projects?

A: In general yes, however those projects must also be NDR eligible. And your entire project, not just the cost share portion, would have to meet HUD regulations and receive HUD environmental clearances. For instance, not all FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) projects are CDBG-NDR fundable because of eligibility, tie-back, or national objective issues.